

REMARKS

Common Ownership

The present application and U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0026423 were both owned by, or subject to an assignment to, Sony Electronics, Inc. at the time the invention of the present application was made.

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the independent claims incorporate the subject matter of original dependent claims 3, 19 and 27. Claims 3, 19 and 27 have been cancelled.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0126439 to Wheeler et al. and also as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0026423 to Maritzen et al. Applicant does not admit that either reference is prior art and reserves the right challenge one or both of the references at a later date. Claims 3, 19 and 27 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-26 and 28-48 is not anticipated by either reference.

Wheeler discloses a security system that authenticates a user prior to allowing the user access to a controlled resource. Maritzen discloses an electronic commerce system that authenticates a user during a transaction.

Neither Wheeler nor Maritzen disclose that the user's authentication information comprises levels of authentication corresponding to locations as claimed in the amended claims. Furthermore, neither reference discloses that different access to the same secure entity is given when the user requests access from different location as claimed in the amended claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention claimed in claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-26 and 28-48 is not anticipated by either Wheeler or Maritzen under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

SUMMARY

Claims 1, 2, 4-18, 20-26 and 28-48 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300 x309.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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Sheryl S. Holloway
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,850

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300 x309